



**LAS VEGAS, NV
SEPTEMBER 2007**



Welcome to Las Vegas!

to all CPOA, CPOAA and CGEA members, spouses and guests.

Welcome to the 39th Annual CPOA Convention. For the week of the Convention you will experience some wins and some losses. (And, that is on the Convention floor!)

One guarantee follows, though. You will have a good time in the gaming capital of the world.

I hope you enjoy this Convention and many more beyond. I have had 30 consecutive Conventions and thoroughly enjoyed them! I hope you do, too!

Best wishes for a great Convention!

Dick Wells
National Convention Chairman

USCG CPOA PREAMBLE

Ever mindful of:

- the traditions, duties and purpose of the United States Coast Guard,
- our duty to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America,
- our responsibility to assist and save distressed seamen and others,
- our responsibility in the enforcement of the laws of our Country, and

Believing that through association and mutual acquaintance, the Chief Petty Officers of the United States Coast Guard may:

- best advance their professional abilities,
- enhance their value, loyalty and devotion to God, Country and service in which they serve,
- promote its unity and morale domestically and militarily through responsible leadership,
- in respect for those who have gone before us, and as a guide for those who follow.

Welcome



RIVIERASM
HOTEL • CASINO • LAS VEGAS
rivierahotel.com

Las Vegas, NV
September 10-14, 2007

What a deal we have for you !!!



A whole week here in fabulous Las Vegas -
at your expense.

United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Charge

During the course of this day you have been caused to suffer indignities, to experience humiliation. This you have accomplished with rare good grace, and therefore, we now believe it fitting to explain to you why this was done. There was no desire to insult you, or to demean you. Pointless as it may have seemed to you, there was a valid, time-honored reason behind every pointed barb.

By experience, by performance and by testing, you have been advanced to Chief Petty Officer. You have one more hurdle to overcome. In the United States Coast Guard, E-7 carries unique responsibilities. No other armed force throughout the world carries the responsibilities nor grants the privileges to its enlisted personnel comparable to the privileges and responsibilities you are now bound to receive and are expected to fulfill.

Your entire way of life has now been changed. More will be expected of you, more will be demanded of you. Not because you are an E-7, but because you are now a Chief Petty Officer. You have not merely been promoted one pay grade, you have joined the Chiefs' Mess, and as in all exclusive groups, you have a special responsibility to your brothers and sisters, even as they have a special responsibility to you.

These privileges, these responsibilities, do not appear in print. They have no official standing, they cannot be referred to by name, number or file. They exist because since 1920, Coast Guard Chiefs before you have freely accepted responsibility beyond the call of printed assignment. Their actions and their performance demanded the respect of their seniors as well as their juniors. It is now required that you be the fount of wisdom, the ambassador of good will, the authority in personnel relations, as well as technical applications. "Ask the Chief" is a household word in and out of the Coast Guard. You are now "The Chief."

The exalted position you have now received, and I used the word "exalted" advisedly, exists because of the attitude, and the performance of the Chiefs before you. It shall continue to exist only so long as you and your fellow chiefs maintain these standards.

So this then is why you were caused to experience these things. You were subjected to humiliation to prove to you that humility is a good, a great, and necessary emotion, which cannot harm you, which in fact strengthens you. In the future, you will be caused to suffer indignities, to experience humiliation far beyond those imposed upon you today. Bear them with the dignity, with the same good grace with which you bore these today.

It is our intention that you will never forget this day. It is our intention to test you, to try you, to accept you. Your performance has assured us that you will wear your hat with the pride that brothers and sisters in arms have before you.

We take a deep sincere pleasure in clasping your hand and accepting you into our midst.



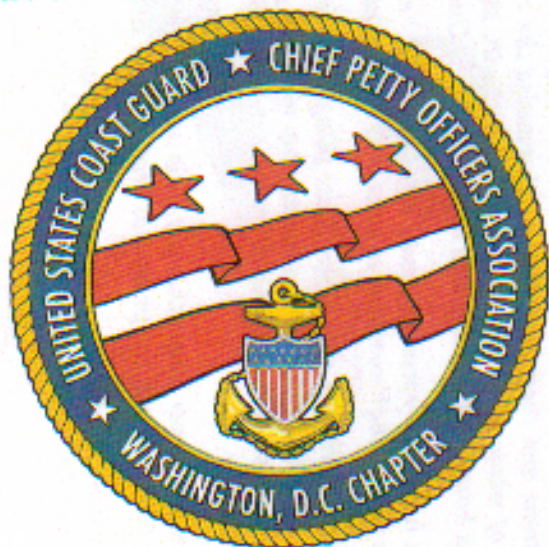
The National CPOAA welcomes you to the 2007 Annual Convention.

We invite all CPOA spouses and dependants (over age 16) to join the CPOAA

We hope everyone has a good time and fond memories while in Las Vegas.



"Why don't you just start by telling 'em now they won't have to pay for a haul-out to paint the bottom."



President MCPO Allen, Vice President CPO McDonald
Secretary SCPO Jensen, Treasurer CPO Birchfield
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THANKS to the Convention Committee for the 39th Annual



JACK CROWLEY

SENIOR CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S MATE
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 Gold Life Time Member
 Life Member of: CPOA-VFW-DAV-Am, Leg.-VVA
 CGCYA-NCOA-AMVETS



List of Current Chapters, Units & Branches

CPOA Chapters

Alexandria
Baltimore
Boston
Cape Cod
Cape May
Crystal Coast
Elizabeth City
Galveston
Gold Country
Golden Gate
Greater Detroit
Green Bay
Hampton Roads
Hawaiian Islands
Houston
Jersey Shore
Juneau
Ketchikan
Kleckner
Kodiak
Las Vegas Mavericks
Long Beach
Long Island
Miami
Mid-America
Mobile
Mount Hood
New Orleans
North Bend
North Coast
Northeast Florida
Oklahoma City
Petaluma
Philadelphia
Port Angeles
Redwood Empire
Rio Grande Valley
Seattle
SE Connecticut

Sitka
SOO
Southernmost
St. Louis
St. Petersburg
Washington, DC
Western Lake Michigan
Yorktown

CPOAA Units

Cape May
Elizabeth City
Green Bay
Kodiak
Las Vegas Wranglers
Mary Simpson
Mobile
St. Petersburg

CGEA Branches

Atlantic City
Baltimore
Chicago
Colonial
Elizabeth City
Garden State
Kedchican
Kodiak Island
Liberty Bell
Lone Star
Long Island
Miami
Mobile
New Orleans
Petaluma
Southern New England
Southernmost
Tampa Bay
Tidewater

2006 – 2009 National CPOA Officers



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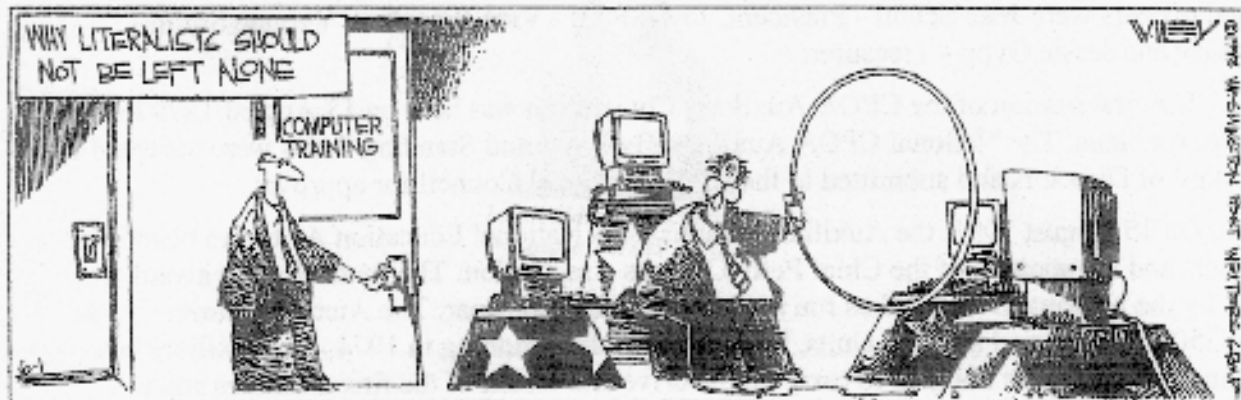
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Preamble of the Chief Petty Officers Association Auxiliary

Remembering God:

That our aim is to assist our Chiefs in their endeavors with understanding,
kindness, strength, and love.

We will always remember and uphold the goals and standards of the United States Coast Guard,
the Chief Petty Officers Association, and the Chief Petty Officers Association Auxiliary.

We ask God that we are always able to carry out our duties to the Coast Guard, to the Chiefs, to
the Auxiliary, and to Community in a manner that reflects Your love for all.

Remember also those who served and returned to you.

History of the CPOAA

The National Board of Directors and the National Council of the United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association assembled at the Sixth Annual Convention in St. Louis, Missouri on 10 October 1974 and authorized establishment of a CPOA Auxiliary Unit for each Chartered Chapter of the Association. The Charter was presented on 14 October 1974.

The CPOAA delegates assembled at the Ninth Annual CPOA Convention in Baltimore, Maryland on 10 August 1977 and elected the Pro-Tem Officers for the Auxiliary. The Pro-Tem Officers were Jean Schott - President, Joyce Ford - Vice-President, Yvonne Smith - Secretary.

The first National Meeting was held on 14 August 1978 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was held for the purpose of appointing committees and the installation of the newly elected National Officers. Six of the eight established Units were in attendance. The newly elected officers were installed with the elected CPOA Officers on 17 August 1978. The first elected officers were Jean Schott - President, Joyce Ford - Vice-President, Yvonne Smith - Secretary and Jessie Gypp - Treasurer.

The first session of the CPOA Auxiliary Convention was held on 13 August 1979 in Mobile, Alabama. The National CPOA Auxiliary By-Laws and Standing Rules were accepted by the Board of Directors and submitted to the CPOA National Council for approval.

On 15 August 1991, the Auxiliary established a National Education Award to benefit its members and the spouses of the Chief Petty Officers Association. The funds for this award are raised by the National Sweepstakes run by the Auxiliary each year. The Auxiliary currently has about 250 members and 8 active Units. From its humble beginning in 1974, the Auxiliary has continued to grow with the goal to carry on the drive and vision of the first members and to improve and insure the future of the Auxiliary. We look forward to the future and continued success of the Auxiliary.

2004-2006 National CPOAA Officers



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2004 – 2006 National CGEA Officers



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Preamble of the Coast Guard Enlisted Association

Always Remember:

- > As enlisted members, we must uphold the highest standards and respect the traditions of the United States Coast Guard,
- > Our past mentors, leaders and the foundation they left for us to follow,
- > To hold ourselves and others accountable to the duties and responsibilities of our country, service, and communities,
- > To give encouragement to the future members & leaders of the Coast Guard,
- > To personally support and stand-by our fellow enlisted members, and their families in their endeavors of joy and hardships,
- > To be forever appreciative for the support and guidance of the USCG Chief Petty Officers Association.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS OF THE
CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

October 1969	-	April 1970	BMCM J. B. Kane
April 1970	-	June 1970	QMCM R. M. Shannon
June 1970	-	April 1972	YNCS E. C. Mason
April 1972	-	June 1973	ETCM L. Martinez
June 1973	-	June 1975	YNCM F. E. Smith
June 1975	-	April 1976	YNC D. D. Orolfo
April 1976	-	June 1976	YNC H. W. Walker
June 1976	-	June 1978	RMCM G. H. Lambert
June 1978	-	August 1979	BMCM W. J. Schott
August 1979	-	August 1981	BMCM J. Deluca
August 1981	-	August 1983	QMC R. Longo
August 1983	-	August 1985	BMCM D. Miller
August 1985	-	August 1988	ATC R. W. Wells
August 1988	-	August 1990	QMC F. Albright
August 1990	-	August 1992	MKCM D. E. Robertson
August 1992	-	August 1994	EMCM L. E. Maher
August 1994	-	August 1996	YNC Jon A. Shipp
August 1996	-	September 1998	BMCS R. F. Sennholtz, Jr.
September 1998	-	September 2000	MKCM D. E. Robertson
September 2000	-	August 2004	BMCS T. A. Trimble
August 2004	-	Present	YNC Jon A. Shipp

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS OF THE
CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY

July 1978	-	August 1980	Jean R. Schott
August 1980	-	August 1982	Nancy Ford
August 1982	-	August 1983	Barbara Jones
August 1983	-	August 1985	Ruth E. Buckley
August 1985	-	August 1986	Ivy Miller
August 1986	-	August 1987	Adrienne Royes
August 1987	-	August 1990	Jean R. Schott
August 1990	-	August 1992	Emma Longo
August 1992	-	August 1994	Ruth E. Buckley
August 1994	-	August 1996	Jean R. Schott
August 1996	-	August 1998	Kolleen Youker
August 1998	-	August 2002	Kathy Phelps
August 2002	-	August 2004	Kathie Morin
August 2004	-	August 2006	Laurie Ternes Kollar
August 2006	-	Present	Rita Bunting

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS OF THE
COAST GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION

1999	-	2000	FT1 Marcus Alden
2000	-	August 2001	BM1 Keith Endicott
August 2001	-	November 2004	DC1 Michael Lawing
November 2004	-	Present	YN1 Doris Jackson

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Subject to [and will] change)

Sunday, 9 September

1200 - 1800

Check-in / Late Registration (Convention Office)

Monday, 10 September

0800

Convention Convenes

0800 - 1030

Opening Ceremonies

1030 - 1130

Official Photos Session

1130 - 1230

Gold Badge Panel

1230 - 1400

Luncheon - Room D

1400 - 1700

General Session of CPOA and CGEA

1730

Parliamentary Procedures Familiarization

Tuesday, 11 September

0800 - 1130

General Session of CPOA and CGEA

1130 - 1300

Lunch Break (Area Restaurants)

1300 - 1700

General Session of CPOA and CGEA

Wednesday, 12 September

0800 -

General Session of CPOA and CGEA

Free day after business

Thursday, 13 September

0800 - 1130

General Session of CPOA and CGEA

1130 - 1300

Lunch Break (Area Restaurants)

1300 - 1700

General Session of CPOA and CGEA

1800 -

Dinner - Room H

Friday, 14 September

0830 - 1130

Closing Ceremonies / Open Forum

CPOA Meetings / Office.....	G
CGEA Meetings.....	106
Hospitality Room.....	2909
Luncheon.....	D
Dinner.....	H

OPENING CEREMONY

Seating of Honored Guests and Visitors

Annual National Convention Convenes

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of CPOA PreambleCPOA President, YNC Jon Shipp

Reading of CGEA Preamble CGEA President, YN1 Doris Jackson

Crossed the Bar Memorial Service

Introduction of Honored Guests and current National CPOA, CPOAA & CGEA Officers

Introduction of Past National Presidents

Introduction of Gold Lifetime Members

Outstanding Chapter AwardsCPOA President, YNC Jon Shipp

Other Awards / Special Presentations

Keynote Speaker.....MCPO-CG Charles "Skip" Bowen

End of ceremony

CPOA GOLD LIFETIME MEMBERS

RMC STEPHEN PARKANS	★	OCTOBER 1972
CSC KENNETT MANESS	★	AUGUST 1975
ETC PAUL GOEKE	★	AUGUST 1977
YNMCM ROBERT E. GALLAGHER		AUGUST 1980
BMCM JAMES B. KANE	★	AUGUST 1984
QMCM ROBERT M. SHANNON	★	AUGUST 1984
BMCM WILLIAM J. SCHOTT	★	AUGUST 1985
RMCM GLENN H. LAMBERT		AUGUST 1986
ETC FOREST A. "BUD" FORD	★	AUGUST 1987
AMC JOHN LEE CHASSEREAU		AUGUST 1994
QMC FRANK ALBRIGHT		AUGUST 1994
ATC RICHARD "DICK" WELLS		AUGUST 1995
Chief Administrator Emeritus DICK CASTOR		AUGUST 1995
ETCM TIMOTHY M. LACKEY		AUGUST 1996
BMCM DAVID C. MILLER		AUGUST 1996
BMC LOUIS C. LICEA		AUGUST 1997
BMCS JACK CROWLEY		AUGUST 1998
YNC ALEX CHAPMAN		AUGUST 1998
QMC DICK LONGO	★	AUGUST 2000
ENC WILLARD D. O'FARRELL		AUGUST 2000
ATCM DAVID DISBENNETT		AUGUST 2001
RMC GEORGE OVERMYER	★	AUGUST 2001
BMCM WALT GORR	★	AUGUST 2002
PSC PATTY BUTLER		AUGUST 2002
YNC JON SHIPP		AUGUST 2004
MKCM DAVE ISHERWOOD		AUGUST 2004
ATCM ORVAL WALKER		SEPTEMBER 2005

CPOAA PLATINUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

JEAN SCHOTT	★	AUGUST 2004
RITA BUNTING		AUGUST 2004
RUTH BUCKLEY BALF		SEPTEMBER 2005
Laurie Ternes Kollar		SEPTEMBER 2005
EMMA LONGO		AUGUST 2006
KATHY PHELPS		AUGUST 2006

★ Deceased

HISTORY OF THE CPOA'S NATIONAL MEETINGS / CONVENTIONS

<u>Nr.</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>HOST CHAPTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1.	WASHINGTON, DC	WASHINGTON, DC	OCTOBER 1969
2.	GOVERNORS ISLAND, NY	NEW YORK	9/28 - 10/02/70
3.	ALAMEDA, CA	SAN FRANCISCO	9/27 - 10/01/71
4.	NEW ORLEANS, LA	NEW ORLEANS	10/04 - 10/06/72
5.	PORTSMOUTH, VA	PORTSMOUTH	10/05 - 10/07/73
6.	ST. LOUIS, MO	ST. LOUIS	10/07 - 10/12/74
7.	ST. PETERSBURG, FL	ST. PETERSBURG	8/04 - 8/09/75
8.	SANTA ROSA, CA	PETALUMA	8/01 - 8/07/76
9.	BALTIMORE, MD	BALTIMORE	8/07 - 8/13/77
10.	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	8/13 - 8/18/78
11.	MOBILE, AL	MOBILE	8/12 - 8/17/79
12.	ST. PETERSBURG, FL	ST. PETERSBURG	8/18 - 8/23/80
13.	GREEN BAY, WI	GREEN BAY	8/10 - 8/14/81
14.	NORFOLK, VA	PORTSMOUTH/ELIZABETH CITY	8/23 - 8/27/82
15.	NASHVILLE, TN	CUMBERLAND	8/11 - 8/14/83
16.	SANTA ROSA, CA	PETALUMA	8/13 - 8/17/84
17.	SAN ANTONIO, TX	HOUSTON	8/12 - 8/16/85
18.	KEY WEST, FL	SOUTHERN MOST	8/11 - 8/15/86
19.	CLEVELAND, OH	CLEVELAND	8/11 - 8/15/87
20.	ST. LOUIS, MO	ST. LOUIS	8/15 - 8/19/88
21.	ORLANDO, FL	ST. PETERSBURG	8/21 - 8/25/89
22.	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	CORPUS CHRISTI	8/13 - 8/17/90
23.	WILLIAMSBURG, VA	YORKTOWN	8/16 - 8/20/91
24.	LAS VEGAS, NV	SAN DIEGO/LAS VEGAS MAVERICKS	8/17 - 8/21/92
25.	WASHINGTON, DC	WASHINGTON, DC	8/17 - 8/20/93
26.	SEATTLE, WA	SEATTLE	8/22 - 8/26/94
27.	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	CORPUS CHRISTI	8/20 - 8/25/95
28.	LAS VEGAS, NV	LAS VEGAS MAVERICKS	8/19 - 8/23/96
29.	CLEVELAND, OH	NORTH COAST	8/24 - 8/29/97
30.	MOBILE, AL	MOBILE	8/31 - 9/04/98
31.	LAS VEGAS, NV	LAS VEGAS MAVERICKS	8/15 - 8/20/99
32.	MOBILE, AL	MOBILE	8/28 - 9/01/00
33.	TULSA, OK	NATIONAL	8/20 - 8/24/01
34.	MEMPHIS, TN	NATIONAL	8/26 - 8/30/02
35.	MOBILE, AL	NATIONAL	8/25 - 8/29/03
36.	LAS VEGAS, NV	NATIONAL	8/23 - 8/27/04
37.	ST. LOUIS, MO	NATIONAL	9/12 - 9/16/05
38.	INDIANAPOLIS, IN	NATIONAL	8/14 - 8/18/06
39.	LAS VEGAS, NV	NATIONAL	9/10 - 9/14/07

Las Vegas Fun Facts

- Shrimp consumption in Las Vegas is more than 60,000 pounds a day -- higher than the rest of the country combined!
- It would take 288 years for one person to spend one night in every hotel room in Las Vegas.
- Nevada is the only state to possess a complete skeleton -- approximately 55 feet long -- of an ichthyosaur, an extinct marine reptile.
- Nevada is called the Sagebrush State, Silver State, Battle-Born State
- In Clark County, an ordinance makes bringing a concealable fire arm into the county illegal unless it is registered with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. In order to register a handgun, however, it must be brought in to the police station.
- Nevada was made famous by the discovery of the Comstock Lode, the richest known U.S. silver deposit, in 1859. Gold now far exceeds all other minerals in value of production. Producing 66 1/2 percent of the nation's gold and 10 percent of the world's total output
- In 1931, the state created two industries, divorce and gambling. For many years, Reno and Las Vegas were the "divorce capitals of the nation." More liberal divorce laws in many states have ended this distinction, but Nevada is still the gambling capital of the U.S.
- It is still "legal" to hang someone for shooting your dog on your property.
- The Golden Gate Hotel and Casino (on Fremont St.) opened in 1906, making it the first hotel and casino to open in Las Vegas.
- The Dunes, demolished in 1993, was the first resort to feature topless showgirls in a show called Minsky's Follies.
- In 1941, the El Rancho Vegas was the first resort to open on The Las Vegas Strip (across from what is now The Sahara).
- In 1899 Charles Fey invented a slot machine named the Liberty Bell. The device became the model for all slots to follow.
- Many of the first hotels on The Strip opened in the 1950's such as The Riviera, Tropicana, The Desert Inn, The Sands, The Dunes, Hacienda, Royal Nevada, Moulin Rouge and The Stardust. Only the first two are still standing.
- In 1946, Bugsy Siegel opened The Flamingo Hotel. Some say his involvement with that project is why he was murdered in 1947 at his mansion in Beverly Hills, California. He named it "The Flamingo" for the long legs of his showgirl sweetheart, Virginia Hill.
- In 1966, Howard Hughes begins his infamous stay at the Desert Inn. By 1968, Hughes purchases the Desert Inn after being asked to leave by Hotel management.
- In 1996, Wayne Newton celebrated his 25,000th performance while Siegfried and Roy celebrated their 15,000th performance.
- The Stratosphere is the tallest, free-standing, observation tower in the US and the tallest structure west of the Mississippi River.
- Camels were used as pack animals in Nevada as late as 1870.
- In Death Valley, the Kangaroo Rat can live its entire life without drinking a drop of liquid.
- It is illegal to drive a camel on the highway.
- The Imperial Palace on the Las Vegas strip was the nation's first off-airport airline baggage check-in service.
- To drive from Los Angeles to Reno the direction traveled is to the west.
- Construction worker Hard Hat's were first invented specifically for workers on the Hoover Dam in 1933.
- Las Vegas has more hotel rooms than any other place on earth.
- In Nevada sex without a condom is considered illegal.

- There were 16,067 slots in Nevada in 1960. In 1999 Nevada had 205,726 slot machines, one for every 10 residents.
- In 1931 the Pair-O-Dice Club was the first casino to open on Highway 91, the future Las Vegas Strip.
- It is illegal for any member of the legislature to conduct official business wearing a penis costume while the legislature is in session.
- Nevada takes its name from a Spanish word meaning snow-capped.
- The longest running show in Las Vegas is the Follies Bergere at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino. It opened in 1959.
- 85% of Nevada is federally owned including the secret Area 51 near the little town of Rachel.
- Hoover Dam, the largest single public works project in the history of the United States, contains 3.25 million cubic yards of concrete, which is enough to pave a two-lane highway from San Francisco to New York.
- The only Nevada lake with an outlet to the sea is man made Lake Mead.

Las Vegas by the Numbers:

- Population: 503,188 (city); 1,485,855 (metro area).
- Average winter temperature: 45-51°F.
- Average summer temperature: 84-91°F.
- Annual rainfall: 4.1 inches.
- Day of sunshine: 310.
- Area: 85 square miles.
- Elevation: 2178 feet.
- Hotel rooms: 126,787.
- Average number of conventions per year: 4000.
- Year first casino was licensed - 1931
- Current number of licensed gambling places in Las Vegas - 1701
- Approximate number of Las Vegas city residents - 500,000
- Approximate number of Clark County residents - 1,500,000
- Number of slot machines in the city - 197,144
- Annual visitors to Las Vegas, in millions - 36.7
- Percentage of visitors from Southern California - 25
- Percentage of visitors who say they come to Vegas mainly to gamble - 5
- Percent of visitors who end up gambling during their stay - 87
- Hours per day average visitor spends gambling - 3.9
- Annual state gaming revenue, in billions of dollars - 9
- Percent of Nevada's general fund fed by gaming-tax revenue - 43
- Average gambling budget per trip, in dollars - 559
- Number of people moving to Las Vegas annually - 84,000
- Average price for an acre of land in the Valley, in thousands of dollars - 161
- Price for a prime acre of land on the Strip, in millions of dollars - 11
- Number of hotel rooms - 124,270
- Average number of pillowcases washed daily at MGM Grand - 15,000
- Average nightly room rate, in dollars - 66
- Average length of stay, in nights - 3.7
- Number of conventions hosted annually - 3749
- Average number of Vegas weddings per day - 315
- Number of local golf courses - 37
- Amount in miles of lighted neon tubing on the Strip and Downtown - 15,000
- Percentage of county's population over 24 years old with college degree - 13.8

- Percentage of residents who claim to be religious - 82.2
- Percentage of population registered to vote - 42.2
- Percent of Nevada land owned by the federal government - 87
- Dirt or gravel roads in Nevada, in miles - 33,010
- Nevada's population growth since 1990, in percentage - 83.3
- Nevada's prison-population growth since 1990, in percentage - 100.4
- State's nationwide rank in gold production - 1
- Cost of Nevada marriage license, in dollars - \$35
- Average cost of filing for divorce in Nevada, in dollars - \$450

Did you know?

- When Paul Anka first played Vegas he was too young to be allowed in the casino.
- Bugsy Siegel named his casino the Flamingo after the long legs of his showgirl girlfriend.
- In Nevada it is mandatory that video slot machines pay a minimum of 75 percent on average.
- Vegas Vic, the enormous neon cowboy that towers over Fremont Street, is the world's largest mechanical neon sign.
- Howard Hughes stayed at the Desert Inn for so long that he was asked to leave. He bought the hotel.
- Camels were used as pack animals in Nevada as late as 1870.
- Over 38.5 million people visit Las Vegas each year.
- Seventeen of the 20 biggest hotels in the U.S. are in Las Vegas.
- Las Vegas is Spanish for "the fertile valley".
- More than 100,000 marriage licenses are issues in the city each year.
- Las Vegas is home to the largest hotel in the world, the MGM, with more than 5000 rooms.
- The first group to hold a convention in Las Vegas was those fun-loving Shriners. A Shriners' group from Los Angeles held the first convention in Las Vegas, in 1935. No word on whether they brought any little cars.
- By the end of 1993, there were 925 nuclear tests conducted at the Nevada Test Site
- St. Thomas, a small community northeast of Las Vegas, had to be abandoned and now rests at the bottom of Lake Mead when the lake was created.
- Ronald Reagan is the only U.S. president to make his only nightclub appearance in Las Vegas where he was onstage with trained chimpanzees.



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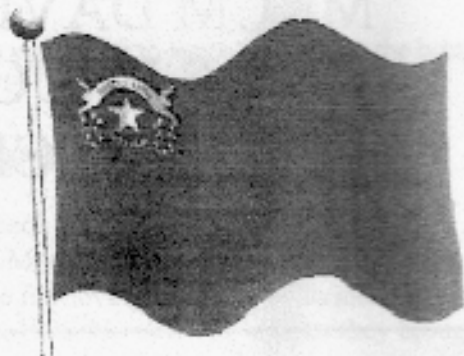
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